

Application No.: 10/759,978
Filed: January 15, 2004

REMARKS

The indication that claims 2-7 and 8-19 would be allowable if rewritten to obviate an indefiniteness objection is acknowledged. Amendments to the various claims have been made that are believed should satisfy the examiner's formal objections for indefiniteness. Two of the independent claims, claims 1 and 8, were rejected under Section 102 based upon two or three prior art references. It is submitted that amended claims 1 and 8 clearly avoid the incidental teachings of these three references and define the invention with sufficient definiteness so that it should be clear there is no anticipation by any one of these three references.

More specifically, claim 1 (which is the broader of the two claims) recites a capacitor module for a pulse-forming network that would include a plurality of such modules disposed about a central network axis, which module comprises a capacitor unit. The capacitor unit is recited as being wedge-shaped having inner and outer end walls that are substantially normal to the radial direction and a pair of non-parallel, flat side surfaces that taper radially inward. It is submitted that there are clear distinctions between this recited structure and the incidental disclosures in the three references, all of which are designed for totally different purposes.

U.S. Patent No. 5,983,472 to Fayram et al. does disclose a capacitor stack 36; however, as seen in Figure 4, it is simply shaped to fit within a particular metal housing 32 so that it is required to have a somewhat unusual shape. Figures 6, and 8 merely show the preferred method of manufacture where two units are fabricated at once and then split along the line 116 using a blade 166 or the like as shown in Figure 8.

The Japanese reference, i.e., Japan 3-185804, merely shows a single unit that is clearly not wedge-shaped or one having the flat-wall pattern of Applicant's recited structure.

Application No. 10/759,978
Filed: January 15, 2004

European Published Application No. 0 147 696 to Shaw et al. teaches a method for making miniaturized multi-layer capacitors which can have various shapes, including the shape shown in Figures 1 and 1a. The capacitor seen in Figure 1a is not truly wedge-shaped, and it does not have sidewalls that are flat and taper radially with respect to an operational orientation. The sidewalls have sloping portions 21 and short transverse terminal portions 18; however, the illustrated capacitor 10 is designed to be used singularly, not multiply, and has a pair of leads 12 so oriented that it would be installed by movement in a direction longitudinally of such leads (which would be 90° from the orientation of Applicant's claimed tapering flat side surfaces). Applicant's shorter inner end wall is located radially inward of the outer end wall, and both are substantially normal to the radial direction. The Shaw capacitor is not of a design that is oriented for installation in a radial direction about a central axis, as Applicant claims, nor does Shaw disclose the combination of a wedge-shaped capacitor unit and a wedge-shaped coupling module as recited in claim 8.

It is submitted that the amended claims 1 and 8 now clearly distinguish from the incidental disclosures found in the three references applied and that these two claims should be allowed along with the remainder of claims 1-19.

Application No.: 10/759,978
Filed: January 15, 2004

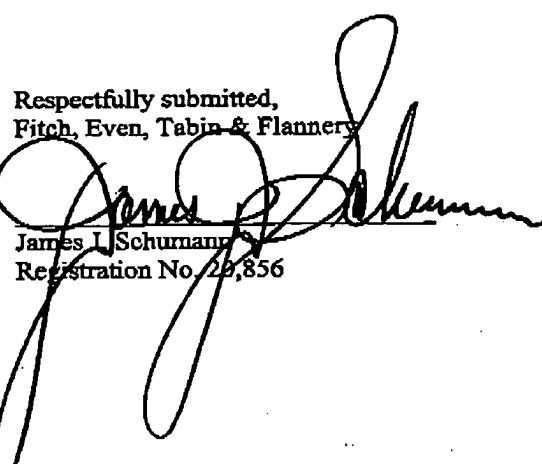
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and in the absence of the more pertinent prior art, it is believed that the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is in order. Favorable action is courteously requested.

Date: December 1, 2004

Address all correspondence to:
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 So. LaSalle Street, Ste. 1600
Chicago, IL 60603

Direct telephone inquiries to:
James J. Schumann
(858) 587-7642
San Diego, California Office of
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

Respectfully submitted,
Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery


James J. Schumann
Registration No. 20,856

J:0166781667.AMD-A.wpd